DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Tuesday, January 6, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	05:58pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	13°C
Maximum	26°C
Humidity	57%
Outlook	Sunny

Head hits back for Australia after Root's majestic 160

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Private school associations give province-wide strike call for 9th

Reject inspection of schools by ACE to verify freeship

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: All private schools and colleges in Sindh will remain closed on Jan 9 after the Grand Alliance of Private Schools Associations announced a complete strike against the involvement of the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in their affairs.

In this regard, the association leaders Haider Ali, Shahzad Akhtar, Tariq Shah, Anwar Bhatti, Danish-uz-Zaman, Nasir Zaidi and others addressed a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Monday.

While highlighting the serious problems faced by private educational institutions across Sindh, the association members expressed their serious concerns and reservations about the verification operations being carried out in schools by the ACE.

They demanded that the chief minister of Sindh implement the court decision against anti-corruption operations in schools.

They said that education is the basic need of the country but unfortunately, millions of children in Sindh are still out of school. It is in this kind of a situation that private educational institutions are providing education to millions of children while charging "very reasonable fees" despite their limited resources.

They said that they have also waived fees for many children as part of their social responsibility. As per the decision of the Sindh High Court bench on December 8, 2025, Anti-Corruption was given the responsibility of verifying the freeship lists submitted by regional directors, after which the Anti-Corruption teams started inspecting the schools directly.

They pointed out that the practice is against the Sindh Private Institutions Act of 2013 as under this law, the Directorate of Private Institutions is the only authorised regulatory body to look into such matters. Therefore, such interference by any other institution is illegal and unnecessary.

The speakers of the press conference also expressed their concern about there being a number of female teachers and young children in educational institutions to whom the investigative actions of Anti-Corruption are causing fear, mental stress and anxiety.

It was pointed out that the entry of armed personnel into schools in a specific manner is not at all suitable for the educational environment, while parents are also facing severe problems due to unnecessary questions and answers and demands for details, although complete data and undertakings by the parents and lists by schools have already been provided to the relevant institutions.

Such actions are also affecting the reputation of renowned educational institutions, welfare organisations and private schools that have been serving the public for decades and have played a significant role in the education

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DAILY wage-earners gather outside the sealed shops off M.A. Jinnah Road near Tibet Centre. —Fahim Siddiqi/ White Star

More markets, shops sealed across city as drive against 'encroachments' continues

• Motorcycle market on Akbar Road remains shut for third day • 86 shops in auto-spareparts market off M.A. Jinnah Road sealed • Officials say shops to be unsealed after traders give undertaking to not use footpaths, roads for placing their goods

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: After sealing the entire motorcycle market on Akbar Road, authorities on Monday sealed the automobile-spare-parts market off M.A. Jinnah Road near Tibet Centre, as well as hundreds of shops in other parts of the metropolis.

The expansion of the drive against encroachments — from owners of roadside eateries to traders who contribute millions in taxes daily — raised many eyebrows.

Officials claimed that as many as 86 shops in the auto-spare-parts market were sealed because vehicles parked in front of the shops for repairs encroached on the main road, causing traffic snarls.

A similar reason was given by the authorities for sealing as many as 115 shops in the Akbar Road motorcycle market, which remained shut on Monday, as well as dozens of other shops in the city's business district.

Deputy Commissioner South Javed Nabi Khoso said that the shopkeepers at Tibet Centre had been given warning three times to remove encroachments in front of their shops.

He claimed that most mechanics and electricians who worked on the roadside in front of the sealed shops were hired by shop owners, seeking to grow their businesses. "Due to double parking of vehicles, the road had become too congested, affecting the flow of traffic," he said.

Shopkeepers told to submit affidavit

A meeting held on Monday decided that any shopkeeper who does not submit an affidavit providing written assurance of compliance with the standard operating procedures (SOPs) will not be allowed to open shops.

It was decided that shops which submitted undertakings to the DCs would be reopened in a phased manner and any establishment that violated the SOPs would have its premises sealed for three days.

The DC-South said that after the affidavit was submitted, any further breach of the SOPs would result in arrests and the registration of FIRs against the violators.

Officials said that the authorities had sealed as many as 196 eateries in different parts of the city during the past three days.

Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi told *Dawn* that the city's anti-encroachment campaign would remain in force, and that no shop or eatery would be permitted to place articles or goods on walkways.

He said that the crackdown would continue to curb the growing trend of encroachments and obstructions on footpaths, roads and service lanes.

'Action may harm economy'

However, traders dismissed the government action as unnecessary, warning that it would harm their businesses and the country's economy.

Muhammad Sabir Shaikh, a former office-bearer of the Motorcycle Dealers Association, said that showcasing automobiles and bikes in front of their outlets is a worldwide practice.

"Authorities should have marked a lane in front of the shops for displaying motorcycles," he demanded.

"The whole exercise, under the guise of an anti-encroachment drive, is simply aimed at raising rates," alleged another bike dealer, without elaborating.

Man remanded to police custody in quadruple murder case

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A man, held for allegedly killing a woman and her three children, was remanded in police custody by a judicial magistrate on Monday.

The investigating officer (IO) of the case brought the suspect, Masroor Hussain, before Judicial Magistrate (West) Inaamullah Phulpoto and sought his physical custody for interrogation.

The IO informed the court that on Jan 3, the police had recovered four unidentified bodies, including two females and two males, from a manhole near Mai Kolachi Road.

He added that the post-mortem reports confirmed that the victims were killed by sharp-edged weapons and subjected to severe physical violence. However, later, the brother of one of the victims identified the bodies and nominated the suspect in this case.

The partially decomposed bodies were identified as those of Anila, 35, her two sons — Husain Ali, 13, and Muhammad Zulqarnain, 12 — and her daughter, Kishwara Zehra, 14.

The IO submitted before the court that he needed the custody of the suspect to recover the crime weapon(s) and also to trace if any other suspect was involved in the offence.

He also stated that the "investigation is at a crucial stage where custodial interrogation is imperative to prevent the destruction or tampering of the evidence and to secure truthful and detailed disclosures from the accused. Police custody will also aid in collecting additional material evidence and facilitating an effective and speedy investigation."

After hearing the IO, the court allowed his request and handed over the custody of the suspect for five days to the police and directed him to submit a progress report at the next hearing.

"Considering the gravity of the offence and the stage of investigation, this court is satisfied that the prayer for police custody remand of the accused Maroor Hussain is justified," the court observed.

A case was registered at the Docks police station under Section 302 (murder) and 34 (Common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Water tanker runs over, kills boy

KARACHI: A water tanker ran over and killed a seven-year-old boy in Manghopir on Monday, police and rescue services officials said.

West SSP Tariq Illahi Mastoi said the driver of the tanker (JZ-6772) was speeding when he hit the minor boy, identified as Arif Abbas. As a result, Abbas sustained critical wounds and died on the spot, the officer added.

Police took timely action and apprehended the tanker driver, Wazir Mohammed, and impounded the heavy vehicle, said a police statement.

Man dies by suicide

A young man died by suicide in North Nazimabad on Monday, police said.

Taimuria SHO Shahid Baloch told Dawn that Mohammed Shehzad, 35, was "upset" for the last three months after his engagement was called off and the woman was married to someone else. Moreover, the deceased was jobless and was living at his sister's house in Block-L. —Staff Reporter

Exotic fish species are threat to aquatic biodiversity, govt warned

WWF-Pakistan calls for strict oversight on fish imported for aquaculture and aquarium trade

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-P) has called upon the government to keep a vigil on the introduction of exotic fish species in the country and to establish quarantine facilities for keeping fish species imported for aquaculture and aquarium trade.

The organisation issued a statement on Monday, describing invasive fish species a looming threat to aquatic biodiversity and fisheries economy after an unusual fish was brought to the Karachi Fish Harbour from Sukkur on Sunday and no one there was able to identify it.

"It was an Amazon sailfin catfish. This fish, which has thick armoured body covered with bony plates, is an exotic fish that has an exotic species accidently introduced into natural water bodies and is spread in the provinces of Sindh and lower Punjab," the WWF-P said, adding that the catfish is native to Latin America and is popular around the world as an aquarium fish.

It said: "This species is among the 26 invasive fish species that have been introduced in Pakistan accidentally or deliberately, and have become invasive, have a detrimental impact on the aquatic biodiversity of Pakistan, and are threatening the delicate balance and function of the ecosystem.

"Invasive fish species are known to severely disrupt aquatic ecosystems by outcompeting natives for food and space, preying on them, introducing diseases, and altering habitats, leading to biodiversity loss, economic damage to fisheries, and even ecosystem collapse, with impacts ranging from increased water turbidity to native fish extinctions and significant losses in commercial fishing revenue. The spread of invasive species is considered a serious threat to delicate aquatic ecosystems in natural water bodies, including rivers, streams, and lakes in Pakistan," the organisation said.

Considering the serious impact of invasive fish on the aquatic ecosystem, WWF-P has ensured inclusion of these species in the recent revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity as a potential threat to national biodiversity.

"WWF-Pakistan has requested all concerned organisations including the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, and the Animal Quarantine Department (under the Ministry of National Food Security and Research), to keep a vigil on the introduction of exotic fish species in Pakistan and to establish quarantine facilities for keeping fish species imported for aquaculture and aquarium trade," the statement said.

PPP celebrates Z.A. Bhutto's 98th birthday across Sindh

CM Murad, other leaders highlight party founder's sacrifices for democracy

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Monday celebrated the 98th birth anniversary of late former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto across Sindh with traditional fervour.

Cake-cutting ceremonies were organised at divisional and district levels across the province in which party leaders and workers participated.

In Karachi, an event was held at the party's city headquarters, Peoples Secretariat. It was attended by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and a large number of party workers, elected representatives and local leaders.

The CM also cut the cake to celebrate the party founder's birthday. Earlier, addressing the ceremony, CM Shah paid glowing tribute to Bhutto, describing him as a visionary, charismatic and people-centric leader who transformed Pakistan's political, constitutional and defence landscape.

"Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave the country its 1973 Constitution, secured the release of 90,000 prisoners of war after the separation of East Pakistan, reclaimed Tharparkar's economic potential, and laid the foundations of Pakistan's defence capability, enabling the country to stand confidently against far larger adversaries. Our armed forces today possess strong defensive capabilities because of the strategic vision of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto," the chief minister said.

Sharing a personal anecdote, CM Shah said that when he was a child, he once accompanied his father to meet a local chieftain, where hundreds of people were seated on the ground while chairs were arranged only for a few. On a later visit, he observed that everyone was seated on chairs, reflecting the empowerment and dignity given to common citizens under Bhutto's leadership.

Sindh minister and PPP Karachi division president Saeed Ghani and senior party leader Waqar Mahdi also addressed the ceremony.

In Larkana, PPP leaders, activists and supporters celebrated Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's birth anniversary with devotion and respect.

The party's Larkana district chapter organised a Quran Khwani at Bhuttos' mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto.

Later, the participants, including MNA Khursheed Junejo, District Council Chairman Aijaz Ahmed Leghari, Asadullah Bhutto, Nisar Bhutto, Mumtaz

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CM Murad Ali Shah cuts the cake, alongside other leaders, at Peoples Secretariat.—PPI